

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for careful consideration of this application.

Claims 23-26 are pending in this application. Claims 8, 17-22 and 27 have been cancelled. The Examiner has found allowable subject matter in Claims 23-26. Therefore, Claims 23 and 26 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of their base claim. Accordingly, Claims 23-26 are in condition for allowance. Support for all amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Double Patenting

Claims 8 and 17-27 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-12 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,642,302 to Wamprecht et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Claims 8, 17-22 and 27 have been cancelled rendering the Examiner's rejections moot with respect to these claims. While Applicants traverse this rejection with regard to Claims 23-26, Applicants previously submitted a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) on February 1, 2006. Although the Advisory Action indicated that the Terminal Disclaimer has not yet been considered because the fee has yet to be charged, Applicants request that the Terminal Disclaimer now be considered because the fee was charged on February 7, 2006. (See attached USPTO recording including Form PTO-478.) Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

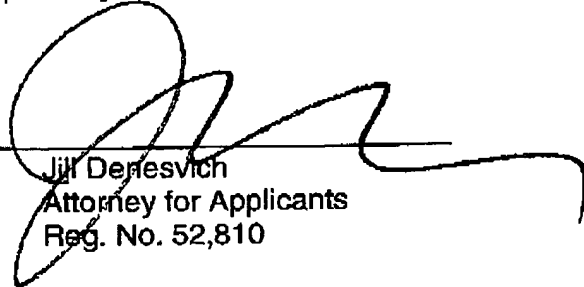
Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 8, 17-22 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 over WO 96/30425 to Martz et al. (hereinafter "Martz") and, independently, over U.S. Pat. No. 5,023,309 to Kruse et al. (hereinafter "Kruse").

Please charge the fee for response within the third month, \$1,020.00, to Deposit Account Number 50-2527. This paper is also authorization to charge any insufficiency of fees or credit any overpayments with this filing to Deposit Account Number 50-2527.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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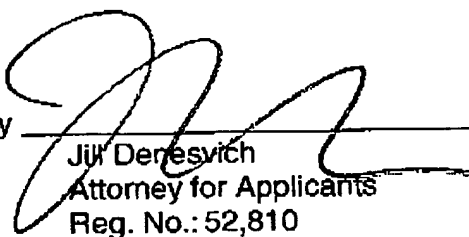
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Claims 8, 17-22 and 27 have been cancelled rendering the Examiner's rejections moot. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections is requested.

Applicants believe that in view of the amendments and remarks made herein, Claims 23-26 are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Application he is invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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